

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

July 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Telephone / Internet Conference Call

Commissioners in attendance:	Other official attendees:
Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman	Paul Adams, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chairman	Tien Cheng, Department of Justice
Chief Tony Godwin	Janyne Kizer, EIT, NCSU
Sheriff Tim Manning	Beth Farrell, General Administration, NCDA&CS
Mr. Billy McLawhorn	Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Mr. Pat Short	Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS
Dr. Guochen Yang	

Call to Order – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Roll Call of Attendees – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** initiated a roll call to determine if a quorum of Commissioners were present. Seven Commissioners as listed above were in attendance, meeting the requirement of a quorum.

Statement Concerning Conflicts of Interest – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** read the statement concerning conflicts of interest and asked members to identify any potential conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were identified.

Recognition of Conference Call – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** noted that the purpose of this meeting is to approve applications to cultivate industrial hemp in North Carolina. Under state and federal laws, individuals must be issued a license to participate in the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Pilot Program. Growers in the state who wish to cultivate industrial hemp must submit an application for a license to the Industrial Hemp Commission. Applications that have been vetted seriously by N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services staff will be reviewed at this meeting. There is no public comment period for this meeting.

Recognition of Special Guests – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** noted there were no special guests at this meeting.

Industrial Hemp Program Update – *Mr. Paul Adams, NC Industrial Hemp Program Manager, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS*

Chairman **Melton** called on Paul Adams, NC Industrial Hemp Program Manager, to provide a program update.

- Mr. **Adams** reported that as of July 12, 2019, North Carolina has 1,124 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 14,558.75 licensed acres and 5,526,750.6 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 693 registered processors in the state.

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Old Business

- Written response to NC SBI from NC Industrial Hemp Commission – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that the Commission's letter to the SBI was sent following the June 7, 2019, meeting. No official response has been received by the Commission to date.

New Business

- Election of Chairman - Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that per statute, his term as Chairman expired on November 1, 2018. Per statute, he may be reappointed to this position. Commissioner **Short** moved to reappoint Commissioner **Melton** as Chairman; this was seconded by Commissioner **Manning**. A roll call vote was conducted, and Commissioner **Melton** was named Chairman for an additional two-year term.
 - Commissioner **McLawhorn** moved that the NC Industrial Hemp Commission hereby adopts and reaffirms every action that has been taken by the Commission from and after November 1, 2018; Commissioner **Godwin** seconded this motion. Motion was approved by voice vote.
- Approval of Minutes from the June 28, 2019 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner **Manning** and seconded by Commissioner **Short**. Motion passed on a voice vote.
 - Review and Approval of Research Pilot Program Applications – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
 - Chairman **Melton** read the names of the applications under consideration at this time: Ronald Hugh Lamm; Andreas Otto; Joe Marler; Silas Kent Smith; Brandon Kyle Foy; Douglas Vernon Duncan; Reginald Holloway; Katie Marie Sinclair; Jonathan Robert West; Jasper Dean Slate; Robert S. Collins; Louis Thomas Bobnar; Mark David Boykin; Thomas Lawing Hinkle; Jody Douglas Cavanaugh; Reginald Jerome Hartley; John Mark Saieed; Roger Dale Stikeleather; Joseph Peter Fontana; Phillip Deck Freeman; Jerral Javon Smith; Amy Michelle Leggett; Ralston Daneel Butler; Kevin Jacob Lee; John Joseph Messina Jr.; Thomas Ear Ottaway; Rick Wayne Barnette; Larry Eugene Riggs; Denise White Tayson; Richard Michael Riggsbee; Delando Lamont Grimes; Wille E. Turner III; Regina L. Grady; Mark Edwin Ivey; Bruce B. Moore; Ana Laura Gonzalez Flores; and Paul Francis Macary.
 - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications presented. Commissioner **McLawhorn** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Manning** seconded the motion to approve. After roll call vote, all applications were approved.

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- Warning about the grey areas of existing law – – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chairman*
 - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** noted industrial hemp is a crop that is legal to grow and cultivate as authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. However, grey area still exists around final product, and many new license holders indicate they will be growing for CBD markets. To date, FDA has not issued guidance on how they intend to regulate these products. North Carolina follows the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act through a cooperative agreement and will follow federal guidelines. To date, FDA’s position has been that these products are not a dietary supplement and are not to be in food products. There are also several provisions within the 2019 NC Farm Act regarding hemp; this legislation has not become law. Part of the NC Farm Act language includes NC developing a 2018 Farm Bill complaint program. USDA will be releasing information regarding state plans later this year.
 - Chairman **Melton** remarked that this is a regulated industry and evolving regulation will impact those growing hemp and receiving license. He advised growers to know who they are working with. It was also noted that if you work with an out of state firm, any future litigation may be held outside North Carolina.

- Posting license holders on NC Industrial Hemp Program website on behalf of the NC Industrial Hemp Commission – – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that the Commission had discussed posting license holder information before, but consensus was that it would bring a lot of attention to the crop and authorized growers. Since this is public information, staff has received a lot of requests for this information. There was no formal motion made and no action will be taken.

- Other Business – – *Commission Members*
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that efforts are underway to schedule a Commission meeting in Raleigh in late August/early September at the NC State Fairgrounds to discuss how to approach the State Plan to be submitted to USDA and other topics.

- Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **Short** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Manning**.

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